

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPA, PDIP, ET, SO

SUBJECT:SIAD BARRE CALL FOR GENUINE DIALOGUE

1. UPI CARRIED A REPORT ON JANUARY 7 THAT SIAD BARRE
CALLED ON EPMG CONDUCT A "GENUINE DIALOGUE" WITH INSURGENT
GROUPS IN COUNTRY TO SETTLE THE CRISIS ON THE HORN. TEXT
FOLLOWS.

QUOTE: SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE HAS CALLED ON THE
ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT A "GENUINE DIALOGUE" WITH
INSURGENT GROUPS IN THE COUNTRY TO SETTLE THE CRISIS ON
THE HORN OF AFRICA.

SOMALIA'S OFFICIAL SONNA NEWS AGENCY TODAY QUOTED BARRE AS
SAYING THE ONLY PRECONDITION TO A SOLUTION OF THE CRISIS
WAS THE "NON-INTERFERENCE OF FOREIGN FORCES." A REFERENCE
TO INVOLVEMENT BY THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA ON ETHIOPIA'S
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BEHALF.

ONCE SUCH NON-INTERFERENCE IS ACHIEVED, BARRE SAID, THE
TRUE SOLUTION LIES IN "THE COMING TOGETHER OF THOSE WHOM
THE PROBLEM CONCERNS, NAMELY THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS OF
WESTERN SOMALIA, ABO, ERITREA AND THE ADDIS ABABA REGIME SO
THAT THEY CONDUCT A GENUINE DIALOGUE."

THE WESTERN SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT AND THE SOMALI ABO GROUP ARE FIGHTING THE ADDIS ABABA GOVERNMENT FOR CONTROL OF ETHIOPIA'S OGADEN REGION, EMBRACING FOUR SOUTHEASTERN PROVINCES.

TWO OTHER GROUPS, THE ERITREAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION FRONT AND THE ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT, ARE WAGING A WAR IN ETHIOPIA'S NORTHERN PROVINCE OF ERITREA TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT STATE.

BARRE SAID HE WOULD WELCOME EFFORTS TO REACH A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT "IF THE ADDIS ABABA REGIME FINDS THE COURAGE TO ACCEPT SUCH ENDEAVORS ON THE PART OF OUR BROTHERS."

IT WAS UNCLEAR FROM BARRE'S REMARKS FRIDAY NIGHT AT A MEETING AIMED AT ESTABLISHING A GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF SOMALI COOPERATIVES, WHETHER HE WAS MODERATING SOMALIA'S POSITION TOWARD PEACE TALKS.

WHILE SUCH OVERTURES HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE PAST, ETHIOPIA HAS REFUSED TO CONSIDER THE IDEA AS LONG AS SOMALI FORCES REMAIN ON ITS SOIL.

BARRE SAID THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF PEOPLES SHOULD BE THE BASIS FOR SOLVING THE PROBLEM. BUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HE DID NOT SPECIFY WHETHER THIS WOULD MEAN AN INDEPENDENT OGADEN AND ERITREA OR WHETHER HE WOULD SETTLE FOR A MEASURE OF SELF-RULE FOR THE OGADEN IN A LOOSE FEDERATION WITH ETHIOPIA, AS SOME MEDIATORS HAVE PROPOSED. UNQUOTE

2. REQUEST YOUR CONFIRMATION OF THIS APPEAL AND COMMENT.
VANCE

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